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Freewell, a peacemaker

New Jersey has a moment of silence for a community hero

By Carl Chase
Staff Writer

ORANGE — Orange Police Officer Joyce Carnegie's death in the line of duty in this working-class city had a tragic ripple effect far beyond the cities of Orange and Plainfield.

From as far as California, at least 5,500 police, fire fighters, paramedics and most, everyone who knew of Carnegie turned out for her funeral. On April 15, Orange Park's vast green space became a sea of black and white cruisers.

Bravely detaining an armed robbery suspect beside Route 280 in Orange, Carnegie had been fatally shot in the head and the stomach on April 8.

"We are born into this world with nothing, and we can take nothing away from it," the Rev. Reginald L. Jackson said from the pulpit of the St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church as his voice rang throughout the Orange Park neighborhood with the help of a system of loudspeakers. But it can be argued that Carnegie took with her a part of everyone who ever knew her and whom she left behind, with memories of her lovely spirit.

Joyce was much more than a cop. "She was a little sister, a perfect sister-in-law, and a great aunt," said her brother, Jeffrey.

"It was easier to get on her good side than her bad," he said. "She was very pleasant, nice, and easy to talk to," said Essex County Prosecutor's investigator Chuck Hancock, who began working with her in 1987. "She was very down to earth. Her whole family was like that: great people."



Family photo of Officer Joyce Carnegie very sweet.

Since I've known her, all she wanted to do was be a cop," he said.

Investigator Robert Montour said he had never seen such a crowd at a cop's funeral since the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial, probably law enforcement's biggest event. "It's a loss to law enforcement and it's a loss to society. She paid the ultimate price. She sacrificed her life for the safety of others."

The tragic loss was so terrible that on the day of the funeral her uncle, Ed Haynes, brother of Ernestine Carnegie, had a heart attack and was hospitalized.

At the wake the night before, the mother, who shared a house in North Plainfield with the officer, met the 25-year-old daughter of a Plainfield policeman killed in action in 1985, officials said. They said the women embraced and apparently quickly "bonded."

Carnegie was an exemplary officer, as much for her compassion as her bravery, judging by the overwhelming theme of remembrances of the 38-year-old officer.

"I remember one day I pulled up outside Sandwiches Unlimited (on Orange's Main Street), parked illegally," said Beverly Henderson, director of a comprehensive health care center in Orange. "Deserved a ticket, but she walked up and said, 'Mrs. Henderson, I'm walking to the corner, and when I get back you'd better be gone.' God bless her. It's not fair," she said, choking back tears.

"She had the character and integrity we like to see in all of our officers," said Plainfield's mayor, Edward Santiago.

Her love of police work emerged after two years of college at Wilberforce University in Ohio, and she had returned to Orange to work several jobs, including security at the Livingston Mall and customer service at Off-Track Betting in New York. She joined the force in January 1995.

"Joyce," as friends knew her, came with the respect of her colleagues, friends and neighbors alike, according to her obituary and all other sources.

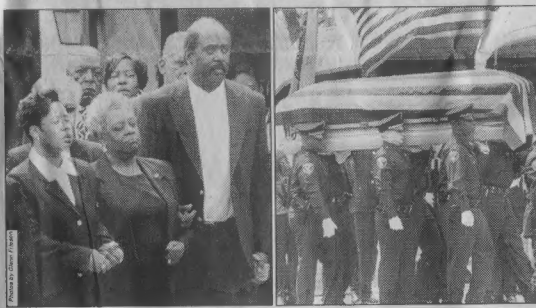
As Jackson said to applaud that filled the church sanctuary and the park, New Jersey virtually stood still in recognition.

Many spoke of the consolation that she had lived a good life.

Or, as an anonymous poet wrote, in a poem Police Director Richard Conte read aloud during the funeral: "Step forward now, policeman, you've borne your burdens well. Come walk a beat on heaven's streets. You've done your time in hell."



A police honor guard awaits Carnegie's flag-draped coffin outside the St. Matthew AME Church. Carnegie's badge number 48 was lifted in remembrance of her commitment to serve the community. Her mother, Ernestine Carnegie (below, center), follows accompanied by the slain officer's older brother, Jeffrey. Patbearers (right) approach the hearse.



Black and Latino lawyers stand defiant against police profiling

By Carl Chase
Staff Writer

EAST ORANGE — Leaders of the Garden State Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association stood together recently to condemn the rampant use of profiling by law enforcement agencies in New Jersey.

"As officers of the court, we are appalled at the continued denial by the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey and the leadership of the New Jersey State Police that illegal racial profiling has been and continues to be practiced by some state police officers," the group's president, John E. Page, said in a press conference in East Orange on April 14.

"In fact, figures from the U.S. Justice Department and the U.S. House Judiciary Committee indicate that 72 percent of drivers pulled over in traffic stops are African-American," he added. "However, African Americans make up only 14 percent of the national population. The evidence is clear and overwhelming."

"As citizens of the United States and residents of the State of New Jersey, we know that racial profiling exists. In fact, it lessens us and debases us as citizens," he said. "Many of us, whether male or female, have been personally stopped while driving on the highways and in the neighborhoods of this state where we live and work. Our children have been stopped. We have personally suffered the indignities of being stopped by police officers for no reason than driving while black or driving while brown."



Attorney Ronald Thompson of the Garden State Bar Association speaks at a press conference. The group will offer free help to victims through a toll-free number.

Hispanic Bar Association President Ramon De La Cruz added, "The facts and statistics regarding racial profiling are clear and convincing to us."

Indeed, more than a half-dozen members recalled their own gut-wrenching experiences on the wrong end of police scrutiny and humiliation. The incidents often led only to embarrassment for cops and a bitter sense that black citizens, no matter how law-abiding or well-accomplished, continue to be viewed by some as the police officer's natural target.

Raymond Hamlin, attorney of exonerated former murder suspect Terrance Everett (proven innocent of killing Police Officer Joyce Carnegie), recalled an example just three weeks old.

Hamlin and his wife, Urban League of Essex County Execu-

Murder, mayhem and chaos strikes families in Orange

By Lucy Sanchez
With Carl Chase and Jean Pierre

ORANGE — When 27-year-old Mikki Wilkins speaks of her fiancé, her smiling face is soon overturned with grief and tears. The man who she described as making her happy 99.9 percent of the time and the father of her children is now dead. He left home Sunday, April 11 never to return.

The piercing cries of his youngest daughter, one-year-old Mikay, echoed the sentiments of his other three children who knew they would never see their father again.

The man known by his friends as the Peacemaker was on his road to success as a rap producer. He had just signed on to a record label and was completing his first project with his childhood best friend, Jamal Gary. A week before Earl Faison, 27, was scheduled to take his first family portrait, Wilkins said he was pulled out of a cab and arrested on the evening of April 11.

Essex County Prosecutor Patricia A. Hurt stated Faison was brought in for possession of a semi-automatic handgun and collapsed while in police custody at Orange Police Headquarters. The East Orange resident was pronounced dead at 10:56 p.m. at Orange Memorial hospital.

death "was not caused by blunt force trauma and that there was no evidence of beating, kicking or strangulation." But, Faison's father, Earl Williams, said he saw evidence that proves differently. "When I saw the pictures, I knew that he was beaten brutally," Williams told News 12 New Jersey. "He was beat to death."

Police Director Richard Conte refused requests for comment. Essex County prosecutor spokesman, Ray Weiss would not comment on Faison's autopsy, cause of death, or photos and stated only that he collapsed. Williams believes her fiancé, 27-year-old Earl Faison, may have been caught up in the middle of a frantic police frenzy. Faison was arrested four days after Orange police officer, Joyce Carnegie was fatally shot and killed at the intersection of South Day Street and Freeway Drive in Orange.

Authorities stated Carnegie was pursuing a suspect responsible for two armed robberies in Orange earlier that day. She radioed in to ask for a description of the suspect, who is specified as a man between 5 feet 5 inches and 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighing between 200 and 250 pounds. Authorities said he is bald with a goatee, and is between 20 and 30 years of age. Apparently Carnegie



Mikki Wilkins cried out for justice for the brutal death of her fiancé, Earl.



Earl's sister Katia said she shakes whenever she sees an officer.

Nation Briefs

U.S. GIVES TANZANIA \$9.2 MILLION FOR BOMBING RELIEF

DAR-ES-SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — The United States will give Tanzania \$9.2 million to help it recover from the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam eight months ago.

The deal signed Wednesday, the money is earmarked to repair infrastructure, enhance disaster preparedness in the East African nation and provide assistance to the victims of the blast.

The Aug. 7 bombing killed eleven people and injured 85 others. The medical bills for those injured in the blast and donated medical supplies to Tanzanian hospitals.

A nearly simultaneous bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killed 201 Kenyans and 12 Americans.

An agreement for the new assistance was signed Wednesday by the U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, the U.S. Secretary of State, and Tanzanian Minister for Finance, Daniel Yona.

The assistance represents "a gesture of goodwill and our commitment to assist the Tanzanian people and this great country in its post-bombing recovery efforts," Smith said.

Under the program, families of the dead and those who were injured will receive financial assistance "based on an assessment of their needs," he said.

'FREE EDDIE CONWAY'... BLACK PANTHER IN JAIL AFTER 30 YEARS

(NNPA) — An enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Billie Holiday statue in Baltimore, Md. April 20 to demand the freedom of former Black Panther Marshall E. Conway (Eddie Conway).

Conway, who is currently serving a life sentence in the Maryland State Prison, was convicted 30 years ago for the killing and wounding of two police officers. He maintains his innocence and his claim to be innocent. His claim is substantiated by fingerprints at the crime scene by the FBI's Covert Intelligence Program (CONTELPRO). He was never connected by fingerprints or any direct physical evidence involving the weapon or crime scene.

After Conway's arrest, an inmate (who happened to be a "past" police informant) was mysteriously transferred to his cell. That inmate claims that Conway confessed to the shootings. The only other evidence connecting Conway to the incident was the identification of photos by a police officer who responded to the shootings.

Currently, Conway's lawyers are preparing a clemency petition to present to Maryland Governor Parris Glendening.

FIRST BLACK AIDS MEDICAL CONFERENCE HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

(NNPA) — The first national medical conference dealing with HIV/AIDS in African Americans was held last month in Washington, D.C., attracting over 1,000 AIDS workers and activists.

"There's no way to ignore the impact of AIDS on the black community. This conference is the first ever," said Cornelius Baker of the National Association of People With AIDS.

Baker credits the conference with focusing media attention on the issue, helping to get the black community talking about AIDS; galvanizing people for networking and beginning to set an agenda for the future.

Blacks account for 60 percent of new HIV infections and 45 percent of new AIDS cases, despite being just 12 percent of the total U.S. population. Black women and children make up 57 percent of women and children overall with AIDS.

MOTHER SUING POLICE OVER SHOOTING OF HER SON

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — The mother of an unarmed black motorist killed by a white police officer said she does not understand why charges of police brutality have been brought against officers in New York City cases but not in her son's case in Connecticut.

Checking back tears, Emma Jones announced she was filing a federal lawsuit because authorities in Connecticut have not prosecuted any charges of police brutality in the death of her 21-year-old son, Malik.

"I don't want to see any other mother have to endure the kind of anguish and terror my family has had to endure," Jones said from the steps of the federal courthouse in New Haven.

Jones was killed April 14, 1997, after a car chase from East Haven into New Haven. Plodquist was cleared of criminal wrongdoing after separate investigations by state police and New Haven State's Attorney Michael Dearington.

Is environmental racism plaguing your community?

By Danielle Knight

(IFS) — African Americans from the southern part of the United States are concerned this week and before the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and seek international support in their struggle against "environmental racism."

The group, representing community and environmental organizations, are charging the United States with complicity in the rights abuses. They allege the government allows ethnic minority and low-income communities to be disproportionate targets for toxic waste dumps or polluting factories.

Delegates plan to testify before the Commission on the health problem and environmental damage their communities have suffered as a result

of living near numerous toxic chemical facilities.

Despite an executive order by President Bill Clinton to address environmental racism, US state and federal officials have enforced existing environmental laws in these communities only under tremendous pressure from organizations, say delegates.

"We are going to put the world spotlight on the pattern of environmental racism that exists throughout the United States," says Danna Smith, coordinator of the Greenspace Toxics Campaign in the United States.

"With this precedent setting delegation, we hope to force the United States to comply with existing laws and achieve environmental justice."

Monique Harden, a lawyer with the Earthjustice Defense Fund, who has represented several communities

in lawsuits against corporations accused of pollution, is also part of the delegation.

"The focus on human rights is usually on developing countries, but we want to shine a mirror on the United States," she says.

Most of the delegates are from communities that live along the Mississippi River in the state of Louisiana known infamously as "Cancer Alley." The industrial corridor stretching from North Baton Rouge south to New Orleans along the river hosts more than 140 oil refineries and chemical plants.

In 1993, the Louisiana State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights concluded that "Many black communities located along the industrial corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans are

disproportionately impacted by the present state and local government system for permitting and expansion of hazardous waste and chemical facilities."

State health and environmental agencies have cited a number of estuaries and water ways in the area as being contaminated with highly toxic industrial chemicals known as persistent organic pollutants, or POPs. These chemicals include aldrin, dieldrin, DDT, dioxins, furans, and PCBs. Some of these chemicals are pesticides and industrial products. Others are the chemical by-products of manufacturing processes or incineration.

Scientists, studying wildlife and humans, have linked POPs to immune system and neurological defects, reproductive abnormalities, low sperm

counts, and cancer. Countries are currently negotiating a treaty to phase out these chemicals globally since they have and can travel far distances by wind and water.

The Louisiana State Advisory Committee says that "State and local officials have failed to establish regulations or safeguards to ensure (minority) communities are reasonably protected from the high concentration of hazardous waste and industrial facilities."

Part of Norco, like many of the other industrial areas of Louisiana, is on land that was once home to slave-owning plantations, adds Harden with Earthjustice.

"We've gone from plantations to toxic plants and the people have yet to be freed or liberated," she says.

Incarceration with adults is often fatal for youth

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Incarcerating youth in jails with hardened criminals results in tragedies. Research from the Youth Law Center demonstrates that children in adult institutions are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted twice as likely to be beaten by staff, fifty percent more likely to be attacked with a weapon, and eight times more likely to commit suicide than children confined in a juvenile facility.

In Ohio, six adult prisoners murdered a 17-year-old while he was incarcerated in the juvenile cell block of an adult jail. In Florida, a 17-year-old mildly retarded boy who pleaded guilty to sexual battery was strangled to death in his 20-year cell mate. Both the youth's attorney and the sentencing judge had tried unsuccessfully to get the boy into treatment rather than jail.

In Boise, Idaho, a 17-year-old boy was held in the adult jail for failing to pay \$73 in traffic fines. Over a 14-hour period, he was tortured and

finally murdered by other prisoners in the cell. Another teenager had been beaten unconscious by the same inmates days earlier. More than 650 children had been held in the jail over a 3-year period, 42 percent for traffic offenses and 17 percent for status offenses.

In Knox County, Indiana, a 17-year-old girl was held in the county jail for shoplifting a \$6 bottle of sustenance. Despite a history of emotional problems, she was put in an isolation cell. Several hours later, she committed suicide by hanging herself.

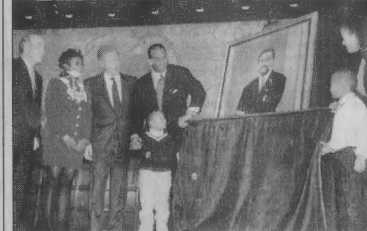
The NAACP released a statement regarding not only youth incarceration but also the disproportionate amount of minorities that are incarcerated. Their research encompasses data from the last 10 years which document the over representation of minorities in jail.

They state that African-American youth ages 10-17 constitute only 15 percent of the U.S. population, however they account for 26 percent of

the juvenile arrests, 32 percent of delinquency referrals to juvenile court, 41 percent of juveniles detained in delinquency cases, 46 percent of juveniles in secure corrections facilities, and 52 percent of juveniles transferred to adult criminal court after judicial hearings. African-American youth are twice as likely to be arrested and seven times as likely to be placed in a detention facility than a white youth.

Research demonstrates that prosecuting children in adult court does not work, according to the Youth Law Center. However, separating juveniles from adults in all stages of custody reduces the cases of violence and tragedies in jail cells. Aggressive prevention programs and alternatives to incarceration are also effective in reducing crime. The NAACP has also called an urgent action alert against the United States Congress for passing legislation which would directly impact minorities and incarceration.

Clinton unveils portrait of Ron Brown



On March 24, President Clinton joined Commerce Secretary William Daley and the Brown family in the unveiling of Former Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown's portrait. The portrait, painted by New York artist Steven Polton was unveiled in the Herbert Hoover Building Auditorium at the Dept. of Commerce. After the portrait was unveiled, Michael Brown spoke and then Tracey Brown read a brief excerpt from "The Life and Times of Ron Brown: A Memoir," the book she wrote about her father. From left to right: Commerce Secretary William Daley, Al Gore, widow of Ron Brown, President Bill Clinton, Michael Brown, son of Ron Brown, Morgan and Ryan Brown, twin sons of Michael Brown and Tami Brown (not pictured), and Tracey Brown, daughter of Ron Brown.

TV ignores minorities at nation's, industry's peril

By Lynn Elber

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Television's worrisome treatment of minorities on television affects race relations as well as the industry's bottom line, a panel said April 12.

When you see shows on TV they're either black shows or white shows, and that's not how we live in America," said Nely Galan, president of the Hispanic-oriented Telemundo Network.

Such depiction's reinforce the social segregation that is an increasing national problem, said television journalist Gerardo Rivera, also part of the Hollywood Radio and Television Society panel.

He compared Hollywood to a dog being "wagged by racism."

Whopoi Goldberg, the moderator, said TV is regressing in how much as well as how it depicts minorities. Of U.S. shows on the six major broadcast networks, only 18 feature black casts or lead characters, she said.

"We battle" Goldberg said, joking over her exhortation at seeing a black woman on television.

George Gerbner, a Temple University telecommunications professor and noted television researcher, said more minority characters were featured in shows canceled in 1998 than there were in series remaining on the air.

Galan called multiracial images important to viewers, especially young ones. "I think a lot of our children's self-esteem comes from seeing themselves depicted positively on the medium that is society's most important."

But companies are missing out economically, as well, he said.

"There is a lot of money in the Hispanic market," Galan told the audience of several hundred at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Gerbner and Rivera clashed over how to improve the medium. In countries in which a portion of the programming is government controlled, Gerbner said, it is more diverse. America's market-driven system will not reform itself, he contended.

Rivera scoffed at the value of government intervention.

"You're not going to get diversity out of the U.S. Congress," he said.

Several panelists said it was vital to get more minorities in positions of power as network executives and producers. At least one said her patience has worn thin.

"I'm becoming like Angela Davis," said producer Yvette Lee Bower ("Living Single," "For Your Love"). "I'm militant now, I'm angry."

An audience member had his own point to make about minority representation. Why, he asked, were there no Asian-Americans on the panel?

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Mass movement promises an optimistic future

Entering a new millennium, the American society is faced with problems of its past. Racism, crime, and a sense of helplessness continues to run rampant through our communities. New Jersey is currently in a state of crisis, with a high unemployment rate, a low living standard and degrading experience for others racial profiling and brutality. They say in the midst of darkness comes light. The tragic deaths of Ananda Dula, 22-year-old African immigrant who was gunned down by four New York City officers, and the fatal stories of thousands of other families across the country who have lost loved ones to senseless and brutal killings have seemed to struck an accord that justice must be served.

Sadly enough New Jersey residents are also mourning the loss of one of its local heroes, Officer Joyce Carangelo of Orange who sacrificed her life to maintain freedom in the inner city streets. In the pursuit of her killer there has been a spree of unfortunate and questionable arrests which have spurred into allegations of abuse and murder by the Orange law enforcement officers.

So where is this new millennium who have marched on the bridges of New York City to the Capitol in Washington DC can there possibly be a spark of light or optimism. That is it! The fact that these unjust killings have united families, grassroots organizations, law enforcement officers, governmental and religious groups, and grieving community members and registered voters who are determined to seek an end to this age-old problem. They have maintained their faith and are pushing forward until the nation recognizes that crime regardless of who commits it must be stopped. They have joined together and stayed together throughout the people's movement of 1999. Justice must prevail!

A little more than a Republic as usual

By Carolyn L. Bennett

There's just one candidate for president who deserves a second look. He went to the U.S. Senate around the time Congressman Barbara Jordan was leaving the U.S. House. He had health reasons and taking a teaching position at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

He was a New Jersey scholar turned basketball player turned senator. He was born in 1927, and he died in 1997, some time time to travel around the country, write a book, and think about America.

Former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, born in Missouri, is running for president of the United States. And I believe he is the best person to lead the Democrats, and the country.

He's the best person because he was in the Senate he served progressive causes. He got high ratings in the polls. He was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans for Democratic Action. Marian Wright Edelman's Children's Defense Fund, the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education for his positions on legislative issues.

He is the best for the job, also, because he seems to embrace ordinary people. He says he's running for president "to improve the opportunity for more people to live better and more economically secure, more personally fulfilling lives."

He's not New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman for president, then former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley.

The Republican Party is hemorrhaging with runners by the weekend, but Whitman was not among them. The Republicans had a whopping 11 declared and maybe, know-nothing, nameless, John McCain, Al Gore, Dan Quayle, Lamar Alexander, Gov. George W. Bush, Steve Forbes, Pat Buchanan, many Bales, John McCain, and many others. The lone woman in the pack defied comprehension with her red dress and grinning face looking like Godly with lipstick smeared all over her face, a fiddle for a Republican crown. No wonder the New Jersey governor respectfully declined.

In the post-card war era when constant computers threaten to erase us into yet another war with just about everyone in the world, we need to know that we are waging with ourselves, we need smart people (short on arrogance) with leadership capability and more ideas, short on dysfunction. The Republicans don't have such a candidate and neither do the Democrats in Al Gore.

Post Mr. Gore. You have to feel sorry for the man. He's tainted, tainted by his own hand in the bill of campaign finance corruption, tainted by the stretch of his partner, William Jefferson Clinton, and twisted by his own intestine, boring, unconvincing nature in campaign finance, boring, unconvincing nature. His work on Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Public Lands, National Parks and Forests, Long-term Economic Growth, Health

Voting meant a lot to them, it should mean the same to us

By J. Kenneth Blackwell
Ohio Secretary of State

Generations of African Americans fought for the right to vote. It is a shame none of us don't use it. Freedom is not free, it was bought by attack dogs, beaten, looted, jailed and their homes and churches were bombed. There were no winners, merely losers.

Finally, the courts and Congress intervened to enforce the law and further define the meaning of freedom.

Was it all for naught? As it stands today, we don't go to the polls to actually vote even when we are registered to vote.

We cannot let this inert stance continue to be the status quo in our communities. We cannot allow the legacy of America's freedom fighters to be scorned by individual apathy.

The civil rights movement, and for that matter, the slave movement, a struggle we as minorities have faced in America for almost 400 years, is rooted in our belief in the value of human dignity.

In 1787, the founding fathers created the "American dream" when they wrote "all men are created equal" and our nation "shall be governed by consent of the governed."

Since this promise, our struggles as a nation have been fueled by holding onto the promise of freedom.

As a secretary of state, I hold no greater responsibility than to uphold that pledge and to protect the rights and capacities of the modern civil rights movement — our power to make history each time we exercise the right to vote.

We cannot attain true freedom if we lose sight of our individual power. Today, the power we exercise by using the right to vote is the power to shape our political and economic power will likewise decline.

Madame CJ. Robt. from Santa Barbara in Louisiana in 1867, organized her strengths at a time when it was unheard of for blacks to aspire to their highest dreams.

By 1900, the span of just a few years, Madame Walker was earning over \$200,000 a year and at her death in 1919, she was the first female millionaire in the United States — having earned her fortune among the African-American community by creating and manufacturing hair and beauty products.

Madame Walker made the con-

cession early in her life that the "American dream" was attainable and that skin color had nothing to do with a commitment to attaining a life of human dignity.

For the civil rights movement, a part of what America had to offer to everyone.

Madame Walker, a prominent entrepreneur, believed that people of color had billions of dollars in the marketplace of their own neighborhoods and that political participation opened doors for women and minorities if they would only join.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said just before his death that African Americans should shift attention from the civil rights struggle to "organizing our strengths in terms of economic and political power."

But if they were alive today, Madame Walker and Dr. King would shake their heads at the level of voter turnout in our communities.

Only 63.5 percent of blacks who were of voting age for the presidential election in 1996 reported registering and only 58.3 percent reported registering for the congressional election of 1994. The number of blacks reporting that they actually voted was only 50.6 percent, 37.0 percent, respectively.

This means that of the total eligible voters in the United States, which was 133 million, only 9.8 million African-Americans voted. That is 5.3 percent of the total eligible voters in the United States. Comparatively speaking, fewer black people voted than the number of people living in New York City.

Dr. King and Madame Walker's unflinching determination to create a world where black men and women could share in the dignity and wealth of equal opportunity, has made them the most powerful activists in our history.

Regardless of the emotional and intellectual arguments we give for not voting, the fact is that we are in the process of defining freedom.

In the words of Dr. King — "No life of voicelessness and powerlessness is acceptable."

Young meant a lot to them. It should mean the same to us. Let freedom ring.

J. Kenneth Blackwell is Ohio's only African-American statewide officeholder. He was the first African-American to serve as the state's secretary of state in 1994.

If we make somewhere else to go (other than to the democrats) we won't have to go to war

By Dr. Lenora P. Fusi

The collapse of communism ten years ago presumably ended the arms race and the potential for world war between the super powers, but the reality is that the arms race is still on. The Pentagon budget is still huge. The arms race is still on. The Pentagon budget is still huge. The arms race is still on. The Pentagon budget is still huge.

Bill Clinton, who is a bright and shrewd politician, recognizes the extent to which America is trapped by the Pentagon's military budget. But he offers a cynical response. He said that he would create a Third Way, a new vision and perspective on social policy that would allow us to move forward without the burden of the Pentagon's military budget.

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The real racists

By James Coleman

For too many Americans have it in their heads that racism makes a home on the right wing of our political spectrum. For the political left, however, that has presided over the decline of our inner cities. It is people from left-wing circles of thought that create poverty and racism. It is people from left-wing circles of thought that create poverty and racism. It is people from left-wing circles of thought that create poverty and racism.

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James Coleman is a member of the African-American leadership network. He is a member of the African-American leadership network. He is a member of the African-American leadership network.

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Our healthcare system is failing in the state of New Jersey

By Dr. Robert Monahan

Policyholders and patients are being given a terrible run-around, and doctors are enduring increased stress and being paid less while having to increase their overhead. In order to survive, the insurance companies have designed to make getting paid more difficult, doctors have had to increase their staff, and pay more for the services they provide.

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The insurance companies have designed to make getting paid more difficult, doctors have had to increase their staff, and pay more for the services they provide.

What are the deterrents to care? Services that were once conveniently provided at your doctor's office now require a referral to another location. The doctor, who knows and loves you and your family, may not be on the insurance company's doctor list. Insurance companies charge procedures that are not covered by the primary doctor to make referrals. They are questioned, care is denied, and appeals are controlled, care is denied, and appeals are controlled, care is denied, and appeals are controlled.

The insurance companies are delaying your care, they are using your time and money to make more money. The insurance companies are delaying your care, they are using your time and money to make more money. The insurance companies are delaying your care, they are using your time and money to make more money.

It is time to demand that the insurance companies put the patients and doctors above their obscene profits. It is time to demand that the insurance companies put the patients and doctors above their obscene profits. It is time to demand that the insurance companies put the patients and doctors above their obscene profits.

Dr. Robert Monahan is a certified physician.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

NEWARK — Regional Business Partnership presents a business breakfast series on the changing environment of business at the National Network Building beginning at 8 a.m. (973) 522-0099.

ATLANTIC CITY — The New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBA) will hold a International Environmental Technology Expo '99 at the Convention Center. Call (908) 292-6952 for time.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

UNION — The Union County Economic Development Corporation will offer an introduction course in Electronic Data Interchange at Kean University's Wells Hall beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 527-1166.

CRANFORD — Union County College will offer a seminar on conflict in the workplace beginning at 6 p.m. (908) 700-7000.

MAHWAH — Ramapo College of New Jersey will host a job fair at Friends Hall located on the campus of Ramapo College beginning at 12 p.m. (201) 684-7002.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

NEWARK — Sisters Inspiring Sisters To Achieve (SISTA) will hold an empowerment seminar and luncheon at Robert Trent Hotel beginning at 8 a.m. (973) 622-1050.

CRANFORD — Union County College will offer a course in Microsoft Word 97 Windows in Business beginning at 7 p.m. (908) 700-7000.

JAMESBURGH — The New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBA) will hold a seminar on improving the legislative process in government at the Jamesburg Holiday Inn beginning at 8:30 a.m. (609) 939-7707.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

PARSIPPANY — The Morris County Chamber of Commerce presents its annual business trade show called "Technology Solutions for Your Business" at the Parsippany Hilton beginning at 10 a.m. (973) 530-2982.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

UNION — The Union County Economic Development Corporation will hold a training course and seminar on financial and technical assistance for small business beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 527-1166.

UNION — The U.S. Small Business Administration will hold a seminar on financial and technical assistance for small business. Call (973) 645-2434 for time and location.

AAA advises to beware of scams

Are your retirement dollars invested in a 401K, mutual fund or hot stock? If so, you're probably carefully watching the current fluctuations of the stock market ready to buy, sell or trade to protect your hard-earned savings. But, while you're searching for that hot tip, AAA Financial Services warns against being too trusting of financial advisors.

"Although the primary targets of investment scams are widows, divorcees and retirees, even the most experienced investors can be caught up in the dream of making an easy fortune," warns Pam Fischer, assistant vice president of financial services for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park. "Beware of any deal that sounds like it's too good to be true."

AAA's Fischer recommends taking an active role in learning to own money and not leaving it to your broker or friend to make those critical decisions for you.

"Learning the fundamentals of investing and becoming aware of what are reasonable returns will ensure you're not victimized by a con artist," Fischer said. "The smartest way to invest is to do your homework, research and study your proposed investments, question the experts and make informed decisions."

Other ways to protect yourself from investment scams include: "Avoid any investments offered over the telephone, especially those offered by strangers."

"Avoid investments proposed by new 'friends' or acquaintances, no matter how good they seem or how nice the salesperson acts."

"Study how brokers are paid. Their commissions may be influenced by how often you buy and sell. This can influence the advice they offer."

Avoid "penny" stocks. Instead, look for stocks and mutual funds from reputable, well-established corporations and investment groups.

"Never, make a financial decision based on emotion," Fischer warned. "Con artists are always nice, polite, courteous and even cute. These are not good reasons to trust their advice. And never make a decision under pressure. The extra day or two that you take to research a prospective investment, may mean the difference between losing your retirement funds or selecting the perfect investment for your long or short-term needs."

AAA Financial Services (through PNC Bank, N.A. and its affiliates) offer a full array of financial services — auto loans and leases, low rate and rewards credit cards, mortgages, home equity loans and lines of credit, certificates of deposit, money market deposit accounts, and student, vacation and personal loans — to AAA members. For information, call (800) 680-AAA4, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Things to think about when selecting a company



Dale Caldwell

Choosing a company to work for in a daunting task no matter what your race or background. The decision is often more difficult for minorities. African, Hispanic, Asian and Native Americans and, in many environments, women, frequently find corporate America a lonely place. More often than not there is only one minority on a project or at a senior level in a division. Minorities who have succeeded in the business world have found a way of dealing with this loneliness and cultural isolation. How much of this isolation you can take should factor into your decision as to where to work. Whether you are a minority or not there are many things you should think about before accepting an offer. However, there are three things that minorities should consider in addition to the others (e.g. salary, geographic location, etc.): These are:

1) Decide what your long-term goals are and how your career with this company will help you achieve these goals. This is something that everyone should do; however, there are two special considerations that minorities must keep in mind. First, minorities must recognize that their credentials frequently must be superior to others for them to achieve the same goals. For example, if you are a minority and you know that you want to eventually start your own business you probably want to embark on a career that will provide you with stellar credentials to get venture capital and/or bank financing once you are out on your own, because you're going to have a tougher time with this than if you're white. Unfortunately, many banks are reluctant to loan money to minority business. Consequently minority business owners frequently need more impressive business credentials than their white counterparts. If your long-term goal is to own your own business think about what company and career will help you get these stellar business credentials.

Second, minorities must be willing to set personal goals that might not have been achieved by other minorities. For example, minorities should feel comfortable appearing to be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a Fortune 500 company even though there has never been a minority (CEO) of any of these companies. This may seem to be an obvious statement. However, I have found most minorities aspire only to these positions that other minorities have attained.

2) Decide whether you can work in an environment where you will have little interaction with other minorities. This decision could potentially steer you away from one industry and toward another. In 1995 I founded the National Association of Black Management Consultants, Inc. (NABMC) because I discovered that there are few black consultants and less than 30 black partners in the top 25 management consulting firms. The management consulting profession will enable you to advance more quickly through your business career than most other professions. However, if you have difficulty as the only minority on a project you will probably not like the management consulting industry. Similarly, investment banking has few minorities. However, in the auto, pharmaceutical, insurance and banking industries there are many more black senior executives (unfortunately, these numbers are still small). It might make more sense to enter one of these industries if interaction with minority senior executives is a high priority to you.

3) Get a feel for the corporate culture of the companies (and offices) that you are considering. I think of corporate culture as the environment, values and style of a company. If you don't feel comfortable in the company's environment, or don't share its values or style, you're going to have a difficult time reaching your career goals. Ask a lot of questions before you start to find out if you'll fit in. Some examples include the following: Is the environment combative or collaborative? Will my technical strengths and weaknesses fit in here? Does the company treat minorities in a manner that I would like? What have other minorities gone through to reach senior levels in the company? Does the company sponsor minority professional conferences, magazines and programs? Are there senior managers that are good mentors? How hard is it to find a sponsor? Your decision to join a company should be based on your long-term goals, your sensitivities to, working in an environment wide few minorities and your comfort with the corporate culture. If you feel that a company meets all of these criteria as well as your salary, job description and geographic requirements then you should join this company.

Elizabeth's economic boom marks 1999 the strongest year for real estate

ELIZABETH — Elizabeth's real estate values made a tremendous improvement in 1998 based on a recent survey conducted by a Massachusetts-based real estate statistics firm.

Real estate values last year rose dramatically (anywhere from four to twelve percent for single family homes located in the 07208, 07206, 07202, and 07201 zip codes. The survey was conducted by Case Schiller Weiss which surveys housing prices nationally.

"This represents one of the strongest years ever for real estate growth in Elizabeth," Mayor Chris Bollwage said. "We've enjoyed access in several key areas that are helping to increase property values: economic development, public safety, and the Union County's lowest property tax rate."

Jorge Castro, an Elizabeth resident who is the President of Century 21 Atlantic Realty in Union County, noted that there is more of a demand for real estate in Elizabeth than ever before.

"We've easily tripled the sales we are using in Elizabeth alone over the last five years," Castro noted. "The demand is incredible because of all that's being done to improve the city, and because of the lower interest rates for mortgages. Elizabeth has become a very desirable place to live again."

Elizabeth's taxes are among the most stable, the lowest in Union County and among the lowest over-

all in the state.

The mayor also noted that the city worked hard to jumpstart more than \$500 million in economic development, including the \$28.9 million HOPE VI development in Elizabethport, and the Jersey Gardens mall that's set to open in October this year. Both projects are having a positive development on property values, and unemployment in the city also dropped 17 percent during the last two reported years.

Chosen Freeholders stated that more than 180,000 jobs and \$200 million in annual business hinge on the ability to modernize Port Elizabeth. They described it as the largest container cargo port on the East Coast, located on the busiest waterways on earth. Port Elizabeth has the potential to be one of the most important economic engines in the country.

Working through public agencies such as the Elizabeth Development Company and the Special Improvement District, the city has launched campaigns using Urban Enterprise Zone funds that have resulted in streetscape programs and improvements in all business districts.

In the area of public safety, the mayor has hired 75 police officers over the last six years. The department is making more arrests, keeping down the best possible place in the streets and cutting the crime rate to the lowest it's been in a decade.

"We have built a foundation for



Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage continued growth." Bollwage noted, "I look forward to continuing our work with all of our partners to make Elizabeth the best possible place it can be to raise a family and to do business in."

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Local Briefs

Man charged with sex assault on teen he met on the internet

HACKENSACK (AP) — A 23-year-old man from Mount Vernon, N.Y., has been charged with sexually assaulting a 14-year-old Teaneck boy he met on the Internet, authorities said.

Police said Steven Aaron Brown met with the teen four times last month at the Teaneck Public Library. Each time, Brown had arranged to give the youth a ride home from the library. Before taking him home, however, Brown allegedly took him to motels to have sex with him. Police said Brown was arrested Friday at the Garden State Plaza after he and the teen arranged to meet there.

Teaneck police Detective Lt. Diane Mancini said the child's aunt had become concerned when she noticed that he had a new cell phone, which was a gift from Brown. The teen reluctantly agreed to cooperate with investigators and arrange the final meeting with the suspect. Brown is married and works for a Connecticut pool supply company. His lawyer, Edward Zimroz, said Brown will plead innocent to the four charges of sexual assault.

Police said Brown took the boy to motels in Fort Lee, Hackensack and Paramus. Mancini said they also once had sex in Brown's car. Brown appeared in Teaneck municipal court Monday. He remained held on \$150,000 bail.

Prudential donates over 10,000 pounds of food to needy

NEWARK — Prudential announced that its Extra Help Program donated more than 10,000 pounds of excess food from its food service operations to state-wide community food banks in New Jersey, for 1995. In addition, 10 surplus industrial kitchen appliances were donated by Prudential to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, in Hillside. On a daily basis, Prudential Food Service employees gather up all of the surplus and unsold food and prepare it for safe transport to one of the state's community food banks, where it is then given to those in need. Perishables are treated to a quick freezing process and other food items are treated, packaged and labeled for safety.

Christmas in April — giving the gift of homes

NEWARK — Hundreds of skilled and unskilled volunteers, along with The Essex County Trades, kicked-off the 1995 Christmas in April rebuilding weekends.

Over the next three weekends, five homes of low-income Newark residents in the West Ward are being repaired and rehabilitated, including core services such as smoke detector installation, electrical safety check, heating and hot water system cleaning, and an appliance safety check.

Christmas in April is a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading the spirit of volunteerism by helping low-income elderly, disabled individuals, and families with children through home renovation and repair in the Newark community. Christmas in April has affiliates in all 50 states. Christmas in April is supported by the financial, in-kind and volunteer assistance of local companies and non-profits including, Prudential, PSE&G, The Home Depot and Jersey Cases. The program also relies heavily on the vol-

unteer efforts of The Essex County Building Trades.

"The purpose of Christmas in April is to help low-income homeowners in Newark to live in warm, safe, and continued independence," said Michael Hanretta, president of Christmas in April. "We can't completely rebuild these homes, but over the course of a few weekends, our skilled and unskilled volunteers can make a difference. In many cases, we can transform a shell of a house back into a home," Hanretta added.

"What makes this program work is the volunteers. In particular, we couldn't do these repairs without the support of our skilled volunteers from the Essex County Building Trades and Carpenter's Local 1342. The commitment of time and resources to Christmas in April — and to the residents of Newark — has been remarkable," said Hanretta.

For 1995, Christmas in April rehabilitated 119 homes with the assistance of 20,300 volunteers nationwide. This equates into \$79 mil-



Volunteers work diligently to rebuild Newark homes.

lion worth of home repairs. For 1995, Christmas in April has registered 7,125 homes that will be repaired with the help of more than 220,000 volunteers, with a projected repair value of \$74 million.

City News Sports

Grunfeld must go!

By Gregory Moore
Contributing Writer

Imagine this scenario. You give a trusted friend \$100,000 to buy you a car. You trust this friend so you don't feel the need to specify make or model. But, heck, for 100K, you expect something exotic — maybe a Rolls Royce, a Lamborghini, or perhaps even a Ferrari. However, when your buddy returns, he pulls up driving a brand new shiny Yugo with no change!

Faced with such a situation, I'd have to determine whether my ex-friend was either dumb, dishonest or both. In the case of the New York Knicks, unless team president Emre Gurbuloglu is a silent partner at one of the major sports agencies which represents his Knicks players, Grunfeld doesn't merit a dishonest presumption. Grunfeld's moves as the Knicks' GM has been just plain dumb. With a team payroll of \$68 million, the Knicks, courtesy of Grunfeld, are spending more money for talent than any other franchise in the NBA. Which begs the question, where's the talent?

Barely clinging to final eastern conference playoff spot, Grunfeld and Madison Square Garden President Dave Checketts have put a mediocre product on the floor. Unlike Grunfeld, Checketts' performance is not entirely measured by Knick wins and losses but rather by the Garden's bottom line. And since the Garden still regularly sells out at Knick games, corporate ownership

isn't complaining "yet. Grunfeld's job security however is directly affected by the deals he makes and the performance of the players he signs. After 8 years (on equity in New York), it is imminent that the time has now come for Grunfeld to go!

With the exception of the 1993-94 season (the year of Michael Jordan's hiatus), Grunfeld's teams have not made a credible challenge for an NBA championship. Knick failures cannot be blamed on former coach Pat Riley, who extracted just about every ounce of talent from CBA refugees such as John Starks and Anthony Mason. Nor can blame be laid to rest at the feet of Jeff Van Gundy, who coached the Knicks into playoffs last year without injured Patrick Ewing for much of the season. Knick doings are directly traceable to a series of poor front office decisions which have Grunfeld's fingerprints all over them.

Last summer, Grunfeld traded away Starks and rebounding find Charles Oakley, two players who embodied the heart and fighting spirit of the Knicks. More recently, Grunfeld has gone on a spending spree which would have made the Marcos regime blush. The Knicks will be suffering the consequences of Grunfeld's mismanagement for years to come. But it looks like Emre won't be around to witness to full extent of his damage since he will probably receive a well deserved pin clip at the conclusion of this season.

Race relations and the police: Working toward a new vision

NEWARK — The Essex County Commission on Unity will hold an open public forum entitled "Race Relations and the Police: Toward a New Vision," on Wednesday, April 26, 1995 from 7:30 p.m. — 9 p.m. at the Seton Hall Law School Auditorium located at 1111 Raymond Blvd., Newark. There will be a reception to follow from 9:30 p.m. — 10:15 p.m. The forum is a cooperative effort between Seton Hall and the Commission.

"Relations between the police and the community, especially the minority community, has been a topic of concern in our state and across the nation," said Sarahah Sabbin, Executive Director of the Commission on Unity. "I believe it is important to open a dialogue on this issue right here in Essex County and invite our citizens to come and voice their opinions and concerns at an open forum."

The keynote speaker for the evening will be Zulima V. Farber, Esq. Farber served as the Public Advocate and Public Defender for the State of New Jersey from August 1992-January 1994. She was the first Hispanic woman to serve as a New Jersey Cabinet Officer and is currently in private practice with Lowenstein Sandler PC, Roseland.

Farber has been a member of the NJ State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights since 1987. While serving as Chair, from 1990-1994, a report was filed entitled "The Use and Abuse of Police Powers: Law Enforcement Practices and the Minority Community in New Jersey."

Born in Santiago, Cuba, she fled that country at age 16 after Fidel Castro gained control. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Montclair State College and her law degree from Rutgers Newark Law School.

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Business & Jobs Expo

A bridge to jobs and development

By Carl Chase
Staff Writer

"Wall-to-wall" job hunters jammed into the Newark Airport Marriott for the first Business & Jobs Expo, hosted by City News' Minority Business Journal. Nearly 1,100 of them participated, along with some 500 businesses intent on hiring those job seekers, raising business capital, or acquiring major contracts for construction work.

"I feel better hoping someone will call," said Trish Brooks, 22, of Irvington, who said she gave out lots of resumes. She told lots of people about the Expo. "I liked it. I told them there are a lot of jobs there, even though most of the time the jobs aren't in the newspaper. I didn't know they were hiring until the Expo."

"I told people they should attend whenever they hear about one," she said.

PSE&G, Hertz and AT&T promised to call her, she said. UPS and two temporary agencies may call her.

"A variety of age groups came from all over New Jersey, and that indicates there's a large demand for jobs," said City News Editor Lucy Sanchez. "There weren't only blacks and Latinos. There were Asians, whites and Eastern Indian people."

"They were well-prepared, well-dressed and had a positive spirit, and from a business perspective they interacted with everyone the whole time. I didn't see a dull moment. The majority of people were pleased and anxious to hear from the employers."

"Some people tend to knock the Generation X crowd — ages 18 through 28 — as lazy and unfocused," said City News Editorial Assistant Jean H. Pierre. "But a lot of 24- and 25-year-olds were there, viewing the job exhibits and talking at the business exhibits. Lots of young entrepreneurs were getting tips and advice from some of those who had made it. From Chase Bank, Bell Atlantic, the Small Business Administration and other sponsors."

Pierre said they "erased the myth" that their generation is not attentive to getting into business and the job market.

On the Job Expo side, job seekers claimed job interests ranging from upper management to "Open." Most filled their resumes with City News and asked to be notified of future Business & Jobs Expo events.

"I came there with 10 resumes and I only had one when I left," said Kathy Mess of Rahway, who arrived on a public bus. "It was just a nice experience."

The event "helped me a lot in job searching. Plus it helped other people in my (Work First New Jersey work program) class," said Mess, her three boys ages 5, 9 and 11 making a pleasant racket in the background. "Trying to find jobs in the newspaper gets old. And a lot of times the jobs are so far away."

"Everybody was very professional, she said. "Everybody was courteous and willing to help. If you looked lost they asked if they could help you. I thought it would be a little more hectic, but everything was pretty well organized."

"More and more people came up to the table and commented that this was one of the best ones that they've ever been to," said Lucky Scott, an insurance representative in Somerset. "I thought it was one of the best things that could happen for minorities in the job market. Usually, (job fairs) have been predominantly white."

"Minorities didn't feel out of place," Scott said. "You're uncomfortable anyway because you're going to look for a job — they know you're unemployed — and you don't know if they're hiring minorities. This time, you know that they knew this was a minority or African-American event."

A key mission of Expo 2000 is boosting economic development in New Jersey's inner cities.

"This is amazing," said New Jersey State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Daniel Jara after the hectic Job Expo and a luncheon honoring city mayors for the best in urban development. "You really pulled it off."

It seemed, as the eager crowd bustled throughout the hotel's first floor, that his few words were worth all the crowds in the world. City News created Expo 2000 to allow minorities, city residents and small businesses to participate in the economic boom that's presently raging in the Garden State.

"This was very beneficial," said David Means, executive director of the Greater Newark Business Development Consortium. "We started receiving a lot of calls the same day about acquiring funding through the consortium and our technical assistance programs."

Walter Grigoleit, general manager of Ogden Aviation, said the firm collected some 30 resumes and quite a few prospective vendors of goods and services.

"We're always particularly interested in Port Authority-certified vendors," said Grigoleit, whose firm operates the airport's fuel storage and delivery systems and makes all "into-plane" deliveries. In order to receive federal subsidies, the Port Authority is federally required to include a number of minority- or women-owned businesses.

George Lazo, a Marriott's manager, said "Marriott human resources people, who do this quite often, said

the volume was steady and aggressive, and for a job fair, really, that's what you're looking for."

On the Business Expo side of the event were some 500 businesses, including 352 businesses that pre-registered for business workshops. 114 attended the seminar on raising capital, 94 attended one on gaining contracts to do construction work, 41 participated in a workshop on marketing for the small business and 36 attended using the Internet and cutting-edge technology in business.

William Boone, the U.S. Small Business Administration's New Jersey assistant district director for economic development, gave a presentation on acquiring SBA loan, normally loans that banks would never even consider without the SBA guarantee. "It's almost like having us as a co-signer," he said.

He shared the Capital Center with workshops by Chase Manhattan Bank, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and several venture capital firms. "It was made known that we have a venture capital program, too. We've always had it, but we're putting more emphasis on it, trying to get the banks to take more of an active role."

"The Expo was the best show I've attended in a very long time," he said. "Making it free to the public is why we had wall-to-wall people. It was standing room only, and it was all about SBA-guaranteed loan programs."

The money can be used to start-up or buy a business, fuel an expansion, buying a building, or even to refinance existing debt — as long as refinancing would improve the firm's cash flow by 20 percent.

Boone advised business people to go to any SBA lender, (and most banks in New Jersey are enrolled in SBA loan programs), including commercial banks and savings & loans. Lenders will give them the SBA application and process it. He said, "I would recommend asking for an SBA-guaranteed loan by name."

He focused on financing business in the new markets, which include certain ethnic minority groups. The guarantee varies from 75 percent (on any loan not more than \$100,000 and up to \$750,000) to 80 percent (on loans of \$100,000 or less), he said.

On a lighter note, five New Jersey mayors accepted The Minority Business Journal's first Competitive Inner City Awards, given to those who create business environments that support the growth of competitive inner city business.

Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage, Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill and an aide to Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer accepted the awards before a capacity audience.

"A year from now I want to know that you filled some of those jobs with those people at the Job Expo," said Henry Johnson, City News publisher and president. "So often we want to create programs," he added. "What we've got to do is focus on the urban centers and create jobs, so all these people will have opportunities."

Permits for retail construction in Elizabeth rose 60 percent last year. Bollwage said the new MetroMall will create 5,000 more jobs. "Those jobs will go to residents of Elizabeth and the region, and I encourage you all to get the word out."

Jersey City led all New Jersey municipalities in residential building permits over the first three quarters of last year. "A job is the best social program, but the next step up the ladder is owning the business," he said.

Newark's renaissance has been fueled by the success of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and the major-crime rate dropped 30 percent in two years. "The arts center was about jobs," James said, adding 26 percent went to minorities. He assured the capacity audience that, "We're going to build the arena, and a soccer stadium."

New Brunswick continues to be a vibrant (Rutgers) university city whose center of arts and culture include the State, Crossroads and George Street theaters. Major redevelopment is happening along the Riverfront, and Cahill said development has totaled about a half-billion since 1991. Cahill cited a 13 percent increase in employment for New Brunswick residents.

Trenton's Douglas Hughes, accepting the award on behalf of Mayor Palmer, said Palmer credited residents for Trenton's success. "People are going throughout their neighborhoods and doing the things they need to do to make the city a better place."

The awards luncheon was sponsored by Horizon Mercy, Schering-Plough, Dun & Bradstreet, and The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Office of Business and Jobs Opportunity and hosted by the Minority Business Journal.

The Business and Job Expo 2000 was sponsored by Horizon Mercy, Schering-Plough, Bell Atlantic, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Office of Job and Business Opportunity, Dun & Bradstreet, PSE&G, Chase Manhattan Bank, Newark Airport Marriott, Saint Barnabas Health Care System, AT&T, OGIDEN Aviation, United Water New Jersey, BAA, Newark, Inc., NJ Transit, GPU Energy, UPS, NJ Economic Development Authority, Hertz, Host Marriott Services, Greater Newark Business Development Consortium and WBSL-FM 107.5



Clockwise from above: Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, New Brunswick and Trenton received Competitive Inner City Awards; exhibitors enjoyed the Business Expo; job-seekers explored their employment options; WBSL-FM's Doctor Bob Lee interviewed participants; Newark was among the Job Expo recruiters; NJ Transit was a sponsor.



Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

NUITLEY — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Nutley Chapter House of the American Red Cross beginning at 3 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ.

UNION — Union Hospital will offer a course in maintaining women's health for seniors at the cafeteria beginning at 3:30 p.m. (908) 964-0444.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

NEWARK — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at VFW District 4 beginning at 3:30 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

UNION — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at Union Hospital beginning at 3 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

BELLE MEAD — The Carrier Foundation will address advances in psychological rehabilitation at the Seventh Annual Steven A. Kraft Memorial Symposium at the foundation's Atkinson Amphitheater beginning at 8:30 a.m. (908) 281-1513.

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital will offer a free lecture on breast and lung cancer at the hospital's Marian Hall beginning at 7 p.m. (201) 633-3188.

Commit to saving lives through organ donation

SPRINGFIELD, NJ — In recognition of National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week (NOTDAW), April 18-24, 1999, the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network (The Sharing Network) is asking New Jerseyans to make a commitment to saving lives through organ donation.

More than 65,000 individuals currently await life-saving organ transplants in the United States. In New Jersey, over 1,600 residents are waiting, many of whom will die before a transplant becomes possible, because of the drastic shortage of available donor organs.

Realizing this urgent need for donors around the country, NOTDAW was established by Congress in 1985, to promote a greater understanding about the life-saving benefits of donation. To bring attention to the need for donors in New Jersey, Governor Whitman will issue a proclamation declaring Organ Donor Awareness Week in the state. Similar resolutions will be issued through the state legislature and local governments.

Activities planned by The Sharing Network include a Donor Family Recognition Program to honor those who have given the "gift of life" through organ and tissue donation. The NJ Donor Family quilt, created as a tribute to the donors, will be displayed at events and programs at hospitals, corporations, universities, and houses of worship around the state.

In addition, civic groups and volunteers will tie green ribbons around trees in their communities as a symbolic gesture of hope to those individuals still awaiting organ transplants. Volunteer groups will display organ donation materials at designated train station and commuter areas for the week. Likewise, several New Jersey movie theaters may air before each movie, a unique organ donation Public Service message (which was filmed in a movie theater setting) promoting donor awareness.

In 1998, New Jersey organ donors made 339 life saving transplants possible, the highest number of organ transplants performed in the state in a single year. "Although New Jersey donations are steadily rising, there are still not enough donated organs to help all of those awaiting transplants," said Sharing Network Executive Director Joseph Roth. He added, "This critical shortage could be reduced if more people decided to become donors and discussed their desire to donate with their families. A single organ donor can save eight lives, while one tissue donor can enhance the lives of up to 75 others."

The Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally-certified, state-approved procurement organization responsible for the recovery of organs and tissue for transplant in New Jersey. For more information on how to become an organ donor or to join the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Donor Registry call The Sharing Network at 1-800-SHARE-NJ or visit their web site at www.sharenj.org.

Socioeconomic status linked to enlarged hearts, heart disease risk

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION — Children of lower socioeconomic status show greater cardiovascular responses to stress, which in turn is associated with the enlargement of the left ventricle of their heart, researchers report. In adulthood, large left ventricular mass raises the risk of dying of heart disease.

Brooks B. Gump, PhD, and Karen A. Matthews, PhD, of the University of Pittsburgh, report their findings in

the March issue of *Health Psychology*.

"The pathways that lead to enlarged left ventricles and consequent heart disease may differ for African-American and white children and adolescents," they say. "In the African-Americans, we found that low socioeconomic status was associated with greater hostility, and in turn, greater hostility was associated with greater cardiovascular reactivity."

For white participants, however,

hostility was not an important link between socioeconomic status and cardiovascular reactivity, according to Gump and Matthews.

Low socioeconomic environments are likely to promote the development of cardiovascular reactivity to stress, perhaps as a way of being prepared to deal with threatening events that are common in those environments.

The scientists worked with 147 boys and girls evenly distributed

among children aged eight to 10 and adolescents aged 15 to 17, between whites and African Americans, and between males and females.

The population density for the child's neighborhood and parents' education and occupation were some of the indicators of socioeconomic status. In addition, the children and adolescents were tested for hostility and anger using standard psychological questionnaires and interviews.

Electrocardiograms and other measures were used to gauge cardiovascular responses to mental stress tasks. Left ventricular mass was measured using echocardiograms.

Gump, now at the State University of New York at Oswego, and Matthews were supported in the research by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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RELIGION

SAURDAY, APRIL 24

PLAINFIELD — Rose of Sharon Community Church will present an all-star gospel concert with special guest vocalists singing Nightingales beginning at 5 p.m. (908) 581-0970.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

NEWARK — A Gospel play written and directed by Celeste Bateman entitled *We Have the Victory* will be at Bethany Baptist Church beginning at 3 p.m. (973) 705-8253.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

NEWARK — Celeste Bateman & Associates presents the Gospel play *We Have the Victory* at Newark Symphony Hall's Second Theater beginning at 8 p.m. (973) 705-8253.

The church and the African-American experience in Jersey City 1640 to 1900

By Glenn D. Cunningham

To understand the development of the African-American church in Jersey City, it is important to be cognizant of the historical, political and social environments within which it evolved.

In the early seventh century, Holland, the Netherlands, was one of the most powerful nations in the world. She had established colonies in the Caribbean and South America, and acquired great wealth through the exploitation of those New World lands and their native populations.

To insure success in their ventures the Dutch also exploited Africa and its people, who they captured and transported to a life of bondage in their New World colonies.

In 1621 Holland authorized the Dutch West India Company to establish the Colony of New Netherlands on territory that included most of present-day New York and New Jersey.

A Fort was constructed at the tip of Manhattan Island in 1625, and New Amsterdam became the colony's capital. The company gave away large tracts of land to politically connected Dutchmen to encourage profitable settlement in the colony. One tract was set apart on the west bank of the Hudson River. It was called Pavonia, and it encompassed all of present day Hudson County.

The city we live in today, began as several small islands across the river from New Amsterdam. For thousands of years the Indians made camp where our streets are now. They knew the area as *Memopaca* (Communipaw), *Astimus* (downtown), *Minkawh* (Greenville). Nearby was *Hobocan-Hakings* (Hoboken), *Pampano* (Bayonne), and *Sikahis* (Secaucus). The nearby land was dominated by a fertile hill where the Indians grew their maize.

The first African man to reach our shore was a slave owned by Gerrit Tysen, Captain of a pirate ship that anchored near the Van Vorst farm in 1640, just about where the Sixth Street entrance to the Newport Mall is now.

Tysen gave the African to Jacob Stoffelsen as a gift in appreciation for the hospitality provided him. Tysen's gift set off quite a stir, when Stoffelsen's stepson sued him in the court in New Amsterdam, where he claimed half-ownership of the human chattel. His justification? He owned one of the two sheep eaten by the guests.

The Indians were provoked to the war path twice in the early days of Pavonia. The small settlements were wiped out both times. Then in 1660 Governor Peter Stuyvesant allowed the settlers to return to the west bank on the condition that they build villages that could be defended against the Indians one at a time. The Dutch built one at Communipaw, and the other on the hill near the Indian maize land. The town of Bergen was built on the hill, on land now bordered by Academy Street, Sky Avenue, Summit Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard.

In 1664, the English took New Netherlands and established the colonies of New York and New Jersey, but the language, religion and customs of Bergen would remain Dutch for years to come. One custom—slave holding—would continue here until the 1830s.

Next week part two: "Blacks & The Dutch Reformed Church."

Religion

Diallos join prayer at Mosque in Harlem

By Katherine Roth

NEW YORK (AP) — Preparing for a rally in Chicago alongside the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the parents of Amadou Diallo prayed for strength, unity and justice in a Nation of Islam mosque.

They touched their heads to the floor in prayer Friday at Harlem's Muhammad Mosque No. 7, where Malcolm X once preached, and thanked Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan for providing security for the family since their son was gunned down by police on Feb. 4.

Four New York City police officers fired a second-degree murder charge in Diallo's death, which has sparked weeks of protest in the city.

While in Chicago, the family has tentative plans to visit Farrakhan, 11 health preachers. The Diallos, traveling with the Rev. Al Sharpton, plan to tour the nation to campaign against police brutality. After a sermon by Benjamin F. Muhammad — who as Benjamin Chavis Jr., was ousted as executive director of the NAACP — the Friday prayer service took an unusual turn

when Muhammad asked the Diallos to stand up and address the dozens of worshippers in the brownstone mosque.

Wearing a pink gown over her slacks, with her head veiled in white, a barefoot Kadiatou Diallo looked uncomfortable at first.

"Excuse me, I'm not used to standing in a mosque to speak," she said. "Our tradition does not allow it. But if a mother loses a child, I think she can go anywhere. I'm here today to cry for my son, to pray for my son. ... May God lead us to justice."

Speaking in Arabic and in English, Sakou Diallo, the father of the slain man, said "In the name of Allah, we are here to pray together, we must be one. ... Now people take guns, they shoot, shoot, shoot. This is against our faith."

He also prayed for a quick recovery for Farrakhan, who was released from a Washington, D.C., hospital, where he underwent surgery to correct an inflammation caused by prostate cancer treatment. The Diallos visited Farrakhan's wife while in Washington for a rally last weekend, Muhammad said.

Allah has determined that the name of Amadou Diallo will be remembered ... for the eternity of time," Muhammad said in his sermon. "Thank you Allah, for the strength of the Diallo family. ... Thank you Allah ... that there has been a daybreak in New York City."

Calling New York "the belly of the beast," he said "We commit ourselves today to work ... so our children do not have to go through the things that Papa and Mama Diallo have had to endure."

Positively Black

Accepting who you are

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

Self-acceptance: the attitude of being essentially satisfied with oneself, one's qualities and one's aptitudes and recognizing one's limitations.—Dictionary of Psychology

Self-acceptance is an inside job. Without sounding trite or facetious, to experience self-acceptance and assurance one must first honor oneself in totality. If we don't know who or what we are, we can never fully accept ourselves. If we are oblivious to our aptitudes, gifts, genetic potential and possibilities, those qualities that are intrinsic and unique to us, it is very difficult to accept ourselves.

One impediment to self-acceptance is buying into this society's outer-directed orientation. That is, we focus on what others think of us. We look outside ourselves for validation, acceptance and approval.

But, ask yourself what you don't like about yourself. And where did this dislike originate? We have to get to the root of why we are so willing to accept the worst about ourselves. Not

to like oneself is an affront to God, our parents and our ancestors. People who don't like themselves are usually very angry and/or depressed. They are secretly angry at God for making them who they are and at life and their circumstances. They succumb to hopelessness and nihilistic behavior.

The good news is that we can change our self-image. We can, in fact, how we feel about ourselves, and we can embrace who we are.

How about realizing that there isn't really anything wrong with just except your thinking? What if you started monitoring your self talk, your inner dialogue, the things you say to yourself about yourself, and discovered it was self-deprecating and sabotaging? What impact would these changes have on your self-esteem or whether or not you fully accepted or embraced yourself. You'll never know until you try.

You may contact Junious Stanton at e-mail address: JRStanton@aol.com

Restaurant owner dumps chemicals at church

NEWARK (AP) — An Essex County jury convicted the owner of a fast-food chicken outlet of illegally dumping hazardous chemicals in front of a nearby church.

Aziz Sunzar, owner of Utah Chicken, faces up to five years in prison and a \$15,000 fine when sentenced May 21 by state Superior Court Judge Harvey Weissbard, who presided over the six-day trial.

The jury deliberated about 90 minutes before convicting Sunzar, 38, of one count, trying to dispose of four 55-gallon drums at the Pilgrimage Church last April.

"The defendant was caught in the act" by an off-duty Newark police officer, said the prosecutor, state Deputy Attorney General Edward R. Bonanno.

The jury acquitted Sunzar of the two other charges he faced, accusing him of leaving similar materials, including drums containing toluene, ethyl-benzene and lead, behind an abandoned building near his restaurant in March 1998.

Bonanno said investigators have not determined where Sunzar got the drums.

Sunzar remains free on bail pending sentencing.

Faith helps U.S. soldiers cope with war

ABOARD THE USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT

— On one level of this huge aircraft carrier, Chaplain Cameron Fish prayed for peace in Yugoslavia on Sunday. On another, U.S. fighter pilots awaited orders to drop more bombs.

The 40-year-old Episcopal chaplain was asked whether there is any irony in offering pastoral services to soldiers who are engaged in war — and, by its very nature — killing. His answer is "No."

"There is brutality and destruction ... against the Albanians," said Fish, of Wilmington, Del. "How could you justify just standing by? If we didn't help, I think it would bother my conscience more."

"The irony is that we have to use violence to end violence. But that is the reality of the human condition," he said.

Through religious services, counseling sessions and one-on-one chats, Fish and the ship's Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist and United Methodist chaplains are trying to give the 5,000 sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt spiritual and moral support as they face combat.

There are also 15 laymen who lead services for other denominations.

Although attendance has not increased since the carrier arrived in the Adriatic on Tuesday and began launching sorties, Fish said sailors are thinking more deeply about their spiritual lives.

Many sailors say faith made it easier to deal with their role in the war.

"It eases our conscience to know that the government is not targeting civilians, even though we know some will be killed," said Lt. j.g. Thomas Musselman, a 26-year-old Presbyterian from Norfolk,

Va.

"Most of all in my life it is my Christian faith that keeps me motivated, especially when I am away from home," said Musselman, the son of a minister.

On Easter Sunday, an ecumenical service was held on the flight deck of the ship. About 150 attended.

Daily services are held in a small chapel below deck decorated with stained glass, a wooden crucifix and a white porcelain Madonna.

Sunday services are held in a much larger room with an organ — and two anchors so huge that each link in their chains weighs 360 pounds. All told, about 500 sailors attend services on at least an occasional basis.

Fish recalled an incident during a recent prayer service when a jet lost an engine and had to return to ship.

"The reality is I am working with people — at least the pilots and air crew — facing a real possibility of injury, death or capture and I cannot just pretend it is not there. I've got to address it in some way."

In some ways, combat has made life easier — and more exciting — for most sailors. People are focused on their jobs and paperwork is less important.

"Daily life on the ship becomes much less monotonous," said Musselman, who has never seen combat before.

In addition to church services, the chaplains help run a recreation center where sailors can go to write e-mails, read books and magazines or watch movies — activities that make being away from home a little easier.

Local church rewards an all-around honor student

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Rescue House of Prayer, South Plainfield, N.J., Irene M. Campbell Pastor, is proud to announce that Ashli Roberts, the daughter of Elder Warren Roberts, Sr. and Karen Reese-Roberts a 6th grade student of Maxson Middle School, Plainfield is the winner of a \$5,000 academic scholarship to Rutgers Preparatory School, Somerset, NJ. The scholarship was offered by the Loyal T. Ives foundation for Academic Merit and only one scholarship was offered. *See itemization 7th grade*

Ashli is also a member of the Rescue House of Prayer Youth Orchestra playing both flute and viola, a member of the City of Plainfield's basketball and softball team for the last three years, a member of the undefeated Middle School Swim Team recently honored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and an active member of the Montclair State University's Psychology for Children class.

In spite of all these activities, Ashli has managed to remain on the honor roll throughout her entire school career. Rescue House of Prayer emphasizes to their youth that to serve God will result in the best you can be here on earth and the opportunity to be with Him eternally. The Church is hoping that other benefactors will match this gift since the scholarship will not cover the entire tuition.



Ashli Roberts of Plainfield wins a \$5,000 academic scholarship to Rutgers Preparatory School in Somerset.

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Murder, mayhem and chaos strikes families in Orange

continued from A1

stopped to question the suspect, and in the midst of the struggle he shot her in her abdomen and the head. Carnegie's consciousness faded as he was taken to the hospital. Police are conducting an intense search looking for the suspect believed to be connected with Carnegie's murder as well as the two prior armed robberies.

Faison was one of the three men originally picked up for questioning because of their resemblance to the composite sketch of the suspect responsible for Carnegie's shooting. Up until late Friday evening, on April 16th, Essex County prosecutors office believed they had the responsible man in custody. Terrence Everett, 24, was picked up and arrested around 5:30 a.m. on April 10 in front of his East Orange home. He made his first court appearance two days later, pleading innocent. He stated he was at a nearby Wendy's restaurant with his friend during the time of the shooting and even agreed to take a polygraph lie detector test. Superior Court Judge Betty J. Lester continued his bail at \$1 million dollars. Everett's lawyer, Raymond L. Hamlin, believed his client received a black eye and a bruised face while in police custody, and requested he be placed in a protective unit.

A cash register receipt confirmed what a Wendy's restaurant manager had previously told police: Everett and his wife had been eating there at the time of the shooting. Near the time of Everett's arrest on April 16, Prosecutor Hurt requested his release from the Essex County Jail. "It is my responsibility to see that justice prevails," stated Hurt. "It would be unjust to detain Everett now that my office has concluded that he was physically impossible for him to have been at the crime scenes when these crimes were perpetrated."

This has been a nightmare for him," said Ron Hunt, one of Everett's attorneys, outside the Prosecutor's Office. "He's been in here for seven, eight days. He was going outside his house...brought here accused of being a cop killer, which was obviously something the police officers were very unhappy about and roughed him up a bit."

The third man arrested that weekend was 30-year-old James Coker, he has since only been charged with drug possession and an outstanding warrant.

Now amidst chaos, grief and a lot of unanswered questions the city of Orange is back to square one. Prosecutor Hurt announced on April 17, that Condell Woodson, 26, of Newark, has been arrested and charged with the shooting of Carnegie and will be arraigned early this week. However, with the efforts of community members and organizations such as the People's Organization For Progress (POP), the town has come together to put an end to the "tragic, and senseless killings." Lawrence Hamm (POP), organized a candlelight prayer vigil in front of the Orange Police Headquarters on April 14, for the grieving families of Carnegie, Faison and other victims of crime. In a massive circle of united hands and bowed heads, hundreds of Orange community members gathered hoping their prayers would bring them answers. Hamm described the day as very painful however, he was glad the community came together. "You call for the masses and one day they come," exclaimed Hamm.

Faison's parents, sisters, fiancé and children made emotional cries asking why the police aren't telling them more. "They are saying they did not beat him but the knots and bruises are just a disgrace," exclaimed the grieving Wilkins.

Joe Fortunato, Montclair lawyer and an American Civil Liberties Union member stated he was deeply saddened and angered that the police and prosecutors rushed to judgment in seeking a suspect in the killing of Officer Carnegie. "I'm disturbed that they were entering homes and essentially acting as if any black man with a bald head and a stoic build was a suspect. Fortunato continued stating that if it were not for Everett's alibi he may have been facing the death penalty if convicted with Carnegie's murder.

Faison's father, Earl remained calm, and reassured the group that justice would be served. He said his son was not the type to resist arrest and that

"somebody obviously doesn't deserve to be wearing a uniform." Spokesman Weiss could not release the names of the arresting officers while the case is under investigation.

As for Everett's case, the prosecutor has reportedly denied that he was a victim of police brutality. "This was a lawful proper arrest, based on the information that was supplied by witnesses," Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura said during a press conference after Everett's release. "There was probable cause to make an arrest, the arrest was made. This is not the first time we've arrested the wrong man in law enforcement. I've been in it for 33 years...it's happened before...most likely I'll happen again."

In an effort to curtail wrongful arrests, brutality and killings Passaic County's Office of Witness Advocacy will be hosting

its Second Annual Candlelight Vigil for victims of crime. It will be held on Sunday, April 25th, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Passaic County Community Center Auditorium, One College Boulevard, Paterson.

Until then the grieving families will await the investigative findings of Essex County Prosecutors Office while speaking out against the "unfortunate events which have only been fun added to an already burning fire in the tri-state area."

Police brutality, racial profiling and crime are on the minds of Americans all over the country which has transcended races, genders and age groups. New Jersey families are searching for answers and New Jersey police are searching for justice. Will either group find what they're looking for?

—The Associated Press contributed to this story.



Earl Faison's children are Mutallib Faison (3), Mujahid Wilkins (3), and Aaliyah Frost (4).

Police profiling

continued from A1

Regina Waynes Joseph, a trustee of the Association, shared an incident in Montclair, where she was detained by eight police cruisers. "I was fairly well dressed, I think, with a new car, three blocks from my house. But: Why was I coming through Montclair at one in the morning?"

She had driven her daughter all the way to college in Atlanta, she said, and had just driven all the way back, except those last three blocks. Waynes Joseph became angry when she talked about the year-old State Police shooting case. "I cannot understand how four kids, not four minority men but four kids, just like they would be called four college kids if they were white, were going down the highway with, as the Star-Ledger reported, nothing more nefarious than basketball shoes, textbooks, a Bible and a John Steinbeck novel."

And these kids will never play basketball again. I don't know how they will be affected. Eleven teens shot...how can you do that?"

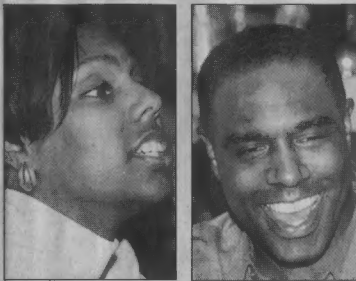
Orange Deputy City Attorney Martin Braker said most police "do good police work, good community work." But it is necessary for the group to set up a toll-free number to offer legal representation for minorities who experience apparent discrimination at the hands of police, he said. Requests began pouring in within a day, including a 23-year-old black computer programmer who was stopped on the Garden State Parkway, apparently a victim of profiling, Braker said.

Recently, he had to explain to his daughter why a State Trooper on the New Jersey Turnpike on the way home from Six Flags Great Adventure had treated her dad "so nasty."

Black Ministers Council of New Jersey Director Rev. Reginald Jackson, standing behind the lawyers, said his organization, long active against profiling, believes the problem is "very pervasive, very systematic."

"It's part of the state and local culture of policing. It's part of the culture of police. The drug problem is driven by minorities, that says being Trooper of the Year is driven by (the number of) arrests."

Other lawyers representing the group objecting to discrimination: Orange City Attorney Lisa D. Love, East Orange lawyer Mark Redguard, Hamlin's partner Ronald Hunt, Tracey Hackett, Vivian Sanks-King, Louis Childress, Rashida Hassan, and the Hispanic Bar Association's president elect.



Susan Davis

Kevin Davis



David Harrington

'That what's friends are for'

By Jean H. Pierre
Staff Writer

Throughout your journey in life you'll go through gains and losses. One day you're granted a promotion, the next you lose a car. The same goes for friends. One minute you're running on the playground, the next day everyone drifts apart.

For six friends who grew up in the Plainfield area, there is no such thing as losses, only gains in respect, compassion and love for one another, which are the examples of friendship.

Kelly Drakeford, Susan D. Davis, Tommy D. Miles, David Harrington, Joseph Cosby Jr. and Kevin O. Davis are people who symbolize this bond. They went to the same church, schools, lived in the same neighborhood and, get this, they all went to historically black colleges and now live exciting, yet hectic, lives. So what makes these "thirty-somethings" so unique? Recently the gang gathered for their annual get-together feast at Freshwaters Restaurant in Plainfield.

They discussed their lives, world events, and their college days, which wasn't all that difficult according to Kevin Davis. "I don't think there were any hardships for myself or either of us in college," says Davis, who works as an insurance agent in Maplewood. "The way we were

brought up kind of helped us handle the pressures of college as kids today can't do, which is unfortunate."

That upbringing came from parents dedicated to instilling strong Christian values they learned from generations past. "All of us bonded because our parents were involved in the church and none of us ever caved in to the streets and its temptation," said Susan Davis, Kevin's sister, who is a judge in Tinton Falls. "That was the common denominator for all of us and to where we are today. That whole experience really helped us."

During the dinner, subjects switched constantly across the table. From music to relationships between men and women, each person had a point of view to spew out. "I think relationships between men and women, especially black men and women have gotten better," said Joseph Cosby Jr., who is a professional firefighter and real estate investor. "You'll see some differences, which is common, but it's all within the person you're with."

Kelly Drakeford, who works in Sun. Robert Torricelli's office, said the importance of their friendship is that each person supports one another. "I could call on them for anything and they're there. That's friends," Drakeford said. "The support is



Joseph Cosby Jr.

always there, so that's very important."

With all the talk that men and women can't get along due to money, commitment, or communication woes, it's nice to see people who don't resemble any of those characteristics. These are images that kids should strive to be and associate with. Images that reflect the importance of education, family, togetherness, and love that is often overlooked in films, television, and music.

As Tommy Miles puts it, "Once you've reached a point you set new goals for yourself. Always." As for the group, each member says they don't know where they see themselves in ten years. No doubt, they'll be at Freshwaters, swapping stories of years gone by and remaining friends for life.

Now, that's gain.

At least you'll go home with one number tonight.

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